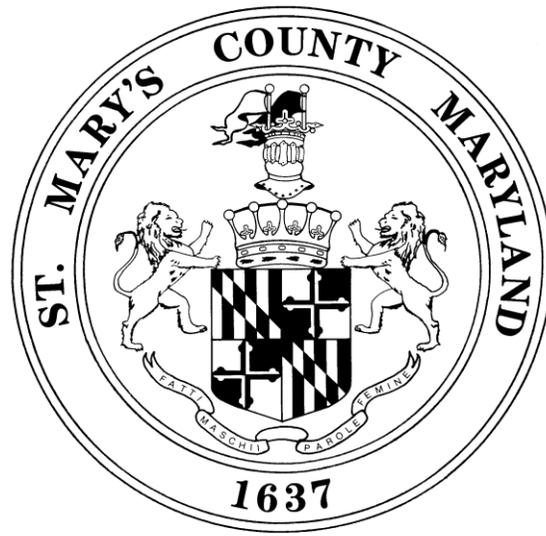


Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board



2019 Annual Report

David Phalen, Chair
James Hodges, Vice-Chair
Richard Buckler
Peter Delman
Tommy Dixon
Patrick Dugan
Bernie Kneeland

Arthur Shepherd, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks
Nick Isom, Golf Course Manager

February 16, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Board

The Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board (WSGCAB) is comprised of seven (7) community members (one of whom is a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board) appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to provide "advice and assistance concerning the Wicomico Shores Golf Course and on issues, fees and policies relating to the Golf Course."

Calendar year 2019 Board members: David Phalen, Chairperson; James Hodges, Vice-Chairperson; Richard Buckler (Recreation and Parks Board member); Peter Delman; Tommy Dixon; Patrick Dugan; and Bernie Kneeland.

Meeting Attendance

Members	Jan 16	Apr 17	Jul 17	Oct 23	Dec 4	Total
D.Phalen						5
J.Hodges						5
R.Buckler	A					4
P.Delman						5
T.Dixon	A		A		A	2
P.Dugan		A				4
B. Kneeland						5

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019

- The Board had a quorum for all five meetings held in calendar year 2019
- Board members received open meeting training and all board members were given access to BoardDocs
- Golf Course Manager Nick Isom, Food and Beverage Coordinator Suzanne Watts, and Head Groundskeeper Jim Farren worked with staff to establish basic standards for the course and restaurant to meet and regularly measure against performance. These standards will provide guidance for measurement and improvement of ongoing and future activities and projects at WSGC and the Riverview restaurant
- The bunker CIP project that began in November 2018 has been completed, providing new sand and more effective drainage for all course bunkers.

- A CIP project to pave and expand cart paths has begun, with the 10-hole first phase of the project completed and the remaining portions of the project to be undertaken with expected CIP funding for FY2021.
- Projects to improve drainage on the #15 fairway and #8 green were completed
- The total number of golf course and restaurant events increased from 137 in calendar-year 2018 to 185 in 2019, driven largely by a continued growth in events and activities at the Riverview Restaurant
- Charity golf events at the course raised approximately \$150,000 for local charitable causes and organizations in 2019
- Participation in the junior golf program increased by 33% over calendar-year 2018
- Improvements to the main foyer area included space for county/tourism information

PROBLEMS, CONCERNS & CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED

- The variable nature of public interest in golf provides ongoing challenges in maintaining and increasing play so that annual rounds of golf can more closely approach the course capacity and provide revenue for ongoing maintenance and future course improvements
- Maintaining the course in optimal condition to allow for a positive experience for golfers (particularly during peak seasons of play) is continually challenged by adverse weather trends and conditions. Course management needs to remain as proactive as possible in meeting such challenges by undertaking irrigation and other water control projects and practices that will maximize the ability of course staff to keep all parts of the course in the best condition possible throughout the year
- Ongoing equipment upkeep and (when necessary) upgrades are important for providing staff with the tools needed to keep the course adequately maintained
- Setting fees and prices for the course and restaurant at a level that will meet current and future budgetary needs without discouraging community use of the available facilities requires ongoing oversight and discussion

PLANS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

- Capital Improvement Projects that will continue into the current calendar year (2020) include a completion of cart path paving and irrigation system repairs. Current goals call for the consideration of equipment needs as a priority for any additional CIP funding (if available)
- An additional set of tees will be added to all course holes to provide a more enjoyable golfing experience for players of all ages and skill levels.
- The golf course staff will introduce and advertise opportunities for interested community members to play a “fling golf” variation of the sport in an effort to encourage a wider range of users to make use of the recreational facility

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- The board will continue to discuss and make recommendations for the future regarding the CIP plan of action for the golf course
- The staff and management will continue to work with the board as needed to conduct research for future events, activities, programs and improvements at the golf course and restaurant
- The staff and board will continue discussions and planning in consideration of increasing the facility’s potential function as a welcome center to provide information and services that support the county’s tourism and development interests
- The board and staff of the course and restaurant will continue to work with the Recreation and Parks division to seek out appropriate opportunities for Wicomico Shores to help serve the public need for diverse healthy and sustainable recreational activities in St. Mary’s County to enhance the health and economic well-being of the community.